

2003 COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



Culpeper District Materials Lab

*Innovation & Quality
Improvement*

Culpeper District

Team Members

Vicki Lyle, Elaine Finks, Warren Smith

Thomas Reaves, Haroon Shami, Dean Gore, Jimmy Aylor

Charlie Brown, Ronnie Smith, Junior Meade, Roger Riner

Not shown: Ronnie Utz

Accreditation by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recognizes the proficiency of a construction materials testing laboratory and enhances the credibility of that lab's testing results—in both the public and private sectors.

Consequently, the Culpeper District Materials Lab team decided to go after accreditation—even though they were not required to do so.

Their initiative meant extra effort, time and work. In preparation for an on-site assessment, the team had to familiarize itself with AASHTO specifications for approximately 50 tests. They also had to check and calibrate all testing gear, order and install additional equipment, and put together a complete quality manual. This was done while still performing regular testing duties as staff of a regional lab serving the Culpeper and Northern Virginia districts.

By successfully completing all the requirements, the Culpeper materials lab became the first district lab in the state to earn the AASHTO accreditation. The team's foresight and achievement testify high standards the lab's employees have for their lab and for themselves. Those standards will reflect positively on all of VDOT.

Nominated by: Robert Connock, Jr., P.E. and Becky Bedsaul

